

On behalf of myself and the people of the great State of West Virginia, we thank Sylvester for his years of dedicated and professional service to the Nation and his contributions to the arts and wish him continued success in the next chapter of his personal and professional life. He has been, and will forever remain, a shining example of the willpower and determination that it takes to make dreams come true.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 14th anniversary of the passage landmark legislation to help Americans balance the responsibilities of work and family, the Family and Medical Leave Act. The Family and Medical Leave Act (PL 103-3), allows qualified workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave a year to care for newborns, seek emergency medical care for himself/herself, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse. Since becoming law, it has allowed many tens of millions of Americans to take unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

But, imagine if your domestic partner, same-sex spouse, adult child, parent-in-law, or grandparent was involved in a serious car accident and had no one to take care of him or her. Then imagine your employer telling you that you can't take a few days off work to care for your loved one because you are not covered by FMLA. This situation sounds preposterous, but there is no protection for you in current law. That is why I am introducing the FMLA Inclusion Act.

The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act (H.R. 475 in the 109th Congress) amends the FMLA to permit leave to care for a domestic partner, same-sex spouse, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, or grandparent if that person has a serious health condition.

I am pleased that the Human Rights Campaign has endorsed this legislation, and I am proud to introduce it with the support of original cosponsors Reps. FRANK, BALDWIN, WOOLSEY and SHAYS.

The FMLA Inclusion Act represents simple fairness, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this fairness prevails.

DARFUR

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the situation in Darfur in western Sudan. As you know, nearly 450,000 people have been killed and over two million people have been displaced as the violence continues to rage in this region. Neighboring nations have absorbed hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled their homes to escape the car-

nage that has unfortunately become a way of life in Darfur. Even humanitarian aid workers have become targets of the violence.

I am encouraged by the recent agreement between the United Nations and the African Union on the make up of a peacekeeping force to patrol the region. This agreement is a step in the right direction, but it is vital that the peacekeeping mission begins soon and the peacekeepers are allowed to carry out their mission effectively. It is important that we support those who are working to restore peace to the millions of innocent people caught in the tragedy in Darfur.

Nearly 3 years ago, on July 22, 2004, the U.S. House of Representatives declared the atrocities in Darfur to be genocide. The vote was bipartisan and unanimous. In the 110th Congress, we have already passed resolutions addressing the situation in Darfur with overwhelming bipartisan majorities.

This issue is not one of partisan politics or ideological differences. It is a moral issue, and we in the House of Representatives are united in our efforts to stop the violence and end the suffering in Darfur.

We can still do more. It is important that we divest funds from companies that do business with the government of Sudan. Divestment is an effective policy tool that would prevent the government of Sudan from receiving financial resources it is using to fund these atrocities. In addition, divestment is the right thing to do. It does not make sense to fund indirectly the very genocide we seek to end.

The crisis in Darfur is a tragedy of our times. I am pleased that the House of Representatives has taken action to ease the suffering of the innocent people in Darfur, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House to bring this terrible chapter of history to a close with a just and lasting peace in Sudan. May God help us all do the right thing.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER TODD UNGER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Father Todd Unger, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary as a Catholic priest later this month. I join the parishioners of St. Peter Church in The Dalles, Oregon in congratulating Father Todd.

Father Todd has served the people of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon with dedication and humility. He was ordained a Catholic priest for the Diocese of Baker, on June 29, 1982 in Redmond, Oregon—the town where he was born. His first assignment was as Associate Pastor in Pendleton, Oregon at St. Mary Catholic Church from 1982–1986. He rose to Pastor in 1986 when he was transferred to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in John Day, Oregon. He served there from 1986–1990. He served the next 8 years as Pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Madras, Oregon. He undertook his present assignment, as Pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in The Dalles, in 1998.

In addition to his duties as Pastor at St. Peter Church, Father Todd administers St.

Mary's Academy in The Dalles, a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade school. St. Mary's Academy has been in continuous operation for 142 years providing an educational faith community for students in Wasco County, Oregon. During his 9 years at The Dalles, Father Todd has twice been called upon to assume the additional duties of principal at the school, once for a few months and once for the entire school year.

In addition to all of his church-related tasks, Father Todd has also been an active citizen in every community that he has served. In Pendleton, he was a member of Kiwanis and a Red Cross Swimming Instructor. In John Day, Father Todd again taught swimming for the Red Cross and began what has been a career-long interest in serving as a volunteer firefighter for the community. In Madras, he again joined the Volunteer Fire Department, and in 1994 he was named Firefighter of the Year. He also served as a member of the Central Oregon Council on Aging, was an active member of Kiwanis, and this time he taught first aid for the Red Cross. In The Dalles, Father Todd became a Rotarian, and again joined the Volunteer Fire Department. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2000.

Everywhere that Father Todd has gone, he has tirelessly ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of the community. He has added greatly to the quality of life in the communities he has served. Father Todd is a sterling example of what it means to be of service. I hope these words in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will serve as a small indicator of thanks from the citizens of the Second Congressional District of Oregon and our congratulations on his Silver Jubilee as a Catholic priest.

HONORING RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Relay For Life, held in Bridgeview, Illinois. The event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is considered the organization's signature activity. This year is especially significant as the June 22–23 event at the Bridgeview Park District marks the 15th anniversary of the first Relay For Life event in Illinois.

Relay For Life is an overnight event designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer in our communities. At the event, participants celebrate survivorship, remember those lost to cancer, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society. Proceeds fund its mission of helping those who have been touched by cancer, empowering individuals to fight back, and saving lives.

Programs such as Road to Recovery, Look Good Feel Good, Support Recovery, and the American Cancer Society's Patient Navigation Services all benefit from the annual event. These programs and services assist patients with educational, technological, logistical, and emotional support, and further the search for a cure.

Through the tireless participation of families, schools, companies, hospitals, and other community groups, Relay For Life has assisted